

In re Patent Application of:

LEPPEK

Serial No. 09/827,386

Filing Date: April 5, 2001

In the Claims:

Cl 1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controllably encrypting data to be transmitted over a communication path between a data source and a data recipient, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plurality of respectively different data encryption operators, ~~and of which may be used, but none of which is necessarily required~~ to encrypt said data into an unintelligible form for transmission over said communication path;

(b) passing said data to be transported over said communication path through a first of said respectively different encryption operators that are arranged in a cascaded sequence to thereby produce a first encrypted data stream; and

(c) successively passing said first encrypted data stream through ~~a second selected one~~ the cascaded sequence of said respectively different data encryption operators to thereby produce a ~~compound~~ multiple-encrypted output data stream that is an encryption of said first encrypted data stream.

2. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:

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(d) transporting said compound encrypted output data stream over said communication path to said data recipient; and

21 (e) passing said output data stream through a sequence of second and first decryption operators that respectively decrypt data that has been encrypted by said second and first encryption operators, so as to recover said data.

3. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 1, wherein step (a) comprises storing said plurality of respectively different data encryption operators in an encryption operator database, and wherein step (b) comprises retrieving said first encryption operator from said database and passing said data to be transported over said communication path through said retrieved first encryption operator to thereby produce a first encrypted data stream, and step (c) comprises retrieving said second encryption operator from said database and passing said first encrypted data stream through said second encryption operator to thereby produce said compound encrypted output data stream.

4. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:

(d) transporting said compound encrypted output data stream over said communication path to said data recipient; and

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C/ (e) passing said compound output data stream through a sequence of second and first decryption operators that respectively decrypt data that has been encrypted by said second and first encryption operators, so as to recover said data.

5. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 4, wherein step (e) comprises storing a plurality of respectively different data decryption operators in a decryption operator database, retrieving from said decryption operator database second and first decryption operators that respectively decrypt data that has been encrypted by said second and first encryption operators, and passing said compound output data stream through a sequence of said second and first decryption operators so as to successively decrypt said compound output data stream and thereby recover said data.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controllably encrypting data to be transmitted over a communication path between a data source and a data recipient, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plurality of respectively different data encryption operators;

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Q (b) sequentially passing data to be transported over said communication path through ~~multiple ones~~ a cascaded sequence of said respectively different data encryption operators to thereby produce a ~~compound-encrypted~~ multiple-encrypted data stream.

7. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 6, further including the steps of:

(c) transporting said compound-encrypted data stream over said communication path to said data recipient; and

(d) passing said compound-encrypted data stream through a sequence of multiple decryption operators that sequentially decrypt said compound-encrypted data so as to recover said data.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controllably encrypting data to be transmitted over a communication path between a data source and a data recipient, comprising the steps of:

(a) storing a plurality of respectively different data encryption operators in a data encryption operator database;

(b) retrieving from said database and assembling selected ones of said respectively different data encryption operators into a cascaded sequence of data encryption operators, wherein

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immediately successive ones of said data encryption operations of said sequence are different from one another; and

①. (c) successively passing data to be transported over said communication path through said cascaded sequence of data encryption operators generated in step (b), so as to produce a ~~compound-encrypted~~ multiple-encrypted data stream.

9. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 8, further including the steps of:

(d) transporting said compound-encrypted data stream over said communication path to said data recipient;

(e) retrieving from a decryption operator database in which a plurality of respectively different data decryption operators are stored, respective decryption operators that respectively decrypt data that has been encrypted by said selected encryption operators;

(f) passing said compound-encrypted output data stream through a sequence of decryption operators retrieved in step (e), successively decrypting said compound-encrypted data stream and thereby recover said data.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for controllably encrypting data to be transmitted over a communication path

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between a data source and a data recipient, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plurality of respectively different data encryption operators;

(b) generating a cascaded sequence of data encryption operators comprised of plural ones of said respectively different data encryption operators provided in step (a); and

(c) successively passing data to be transported over said communication path through said cascaded sequence of data encryption operators generated in step (b), so as to produce a ~~compound-encrypted~~ multiple-encrypted output data stream.

11. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 10, further including the steps of:

(d) transporting said compound-encrypted output data stream over said communication path to said data recipient; and

(e) passing said compound-encrypted output data stream through a sequence of decryption operators that respectively decrypt data that has been encrypted by said data encryption operators, so as to recover said data.

Claims 12-15 (CANCELLED)